



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

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**Janie Miller**  
Secretary

To: Kentucky Vaccine Program (KVP) Providers  
From: Laura Harrod, MS Ed,  
Kentucky Vaccine Program Coordinator

Date: June 30, 2011

Subject: Important changes to shipping for VARIVAX® and ZOSTAVAX®

Attached is a copy of the literature that Merck will be including in the next frozen shipments to providers. As of June 6, 2011, Merck will no longer ship VARIVAX® and ZOSTAVAX® to customers on dry ice.

In the past, VARIVAX® and ZOSTAVAX® have been direct shipped by the manufacturer using dry ice. These vaccines will now be packed for shipping with 6 frozen gel packs as refrigerant in the shipping containers. The vaccine shipping containers are packed according to Merck guidelines which take into account the maximum temperature to which the container will be exposed, the time the package will be in transit, and the temperature required to keep the vaccine viable during shipping.

Adequate refrigerant (frozen gel packs) in the shipping containers are designed to maintain proper temperatures for three days from the shipment date located on the packing list. The vaccine is located in the lower compartment of the shipping box. Providers must immediately open the container and store the vaccine in the freezer. Any freezer (e.g. chest, frost-free) units that reliably maintain an average temperature of -15°C (+5°F) or colder and have separate sealed freezer doors are acceptable. To maintain potency the vaccine must be stored frozen at an average temperature of -15°C (+5°F) or colder prior to reconstitution for injection. The diluent is located in the top compartment of the shipping box underneath the cardboard cap. Upon arrival, the diluent must be stored in the refrigerator (2°C to 8°C/36°F to 46°F) or at room temperature (20°C to 25°C/68°F to 77°F).

If the container is received after the three-day shipping time period, the provider should **immediately** store the vaccine and contact the Merck Order Management Center immediately for replacement instructions at 1-800-637-2579.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CHANGE  
IN SHIPPING PACKAGING FOR VARIVAX<sup>®</sup>  
(Varicella Virus Vaccine Live) and ZOSTAVAX<sup>®</sup>  
(Zoster Vaccine Live)**

Merck has replaced the use of dry ice with frozen gel packs in the shipping packages for VARIVAX and ZOSTAVAX.

**The receiver must immediately open the container  
and store the vaccine in a freezer.**

VARIVAX and ZOSTAVAX are packed with frozen gel packs in the shipping container. Upon delivery, the gel packs should feel cold and may be pliable to the touch. The quantity of gel packs placed in the container is based on carefully determined guidelines. These Merck guidelines take into account the maximum temperature to which the container will be exposed, the time in transit, and the need to keep the vaccine at the appropriate temperature during shipping. The product shipped with the gel packs may not be as cold as product previously shipped with dry ice.

An adequate number of gel packs were placed in this shipping container to maintain proper temperatures for **THREE (3) DAYS** from the shipment date located on the packing list.

If the container is received after the time period described above, contact the Merck Order Management Center immediately for replacement instructions at **1-800-MERCK-RX (1-800-637-2579)**. Such requests for replacement must be received by Merck within 15 days of the original shipment.

- The vaccine is located in the lower compartment – **Store the vaccine in the FREEZER immediately.** Any freezer, including frost-free, that has a separate sealed freezer door and reliably maintains a temperature between –58°F and +5°F (–50°C to –15°C) is acceptable.
- Merck does not recommend reuse of our shipping materials, including gel packs and shipping containers, to further transport vaccine products as improper re-packaging and transportation could impact the stability of the vaccine.
- The gel packs contain water-based non-toxic gel. Please dispose of these packs with regular trash.

*Store the diluent (located in the top compartment underneath the cardboard cap) in a refrigerator [36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C)] or at room temperature [68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C)].*

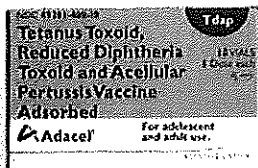
# Check Your Vials:

is it  
Tdap  
DTaP  
or Td?

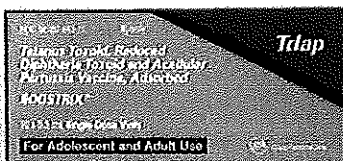
## Tdap: Tetanus, Reduced Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis

### Preteens - Adults

**ADACEL™ (sanofi pasteur)**  
Ages 11-64 years



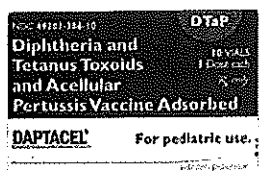
**Boostrix® (GlaxoSmithKline)**  
Ages 10-64 years



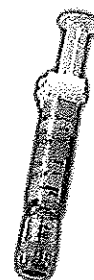
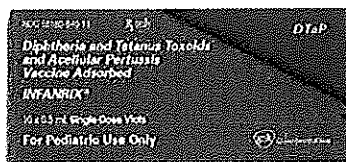
## DTaP: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis

### Infants - Young Children

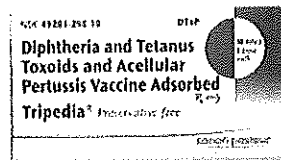
**DAPTACEL® (sanofi pasteur)**  
Ages 6 weeks up to 7 years



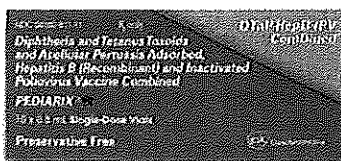
**Infanrix® (GlaxoSmithKline)**  
Ages 6 weeks up to 7 years



**TRIPEDIA® (sanofi pasteur)**  
Ages 6 weeks up to 7 years

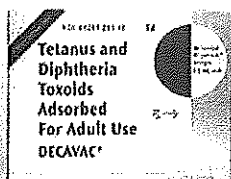


**Pediarix® (GlaxoSmithKline)**  
Ages 6 weeks up to 7 years

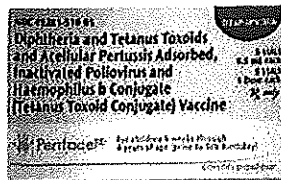


## Td: Tetanus, Diphtheria

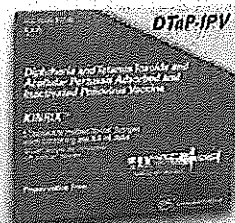
**Td (sanofi pasteur)**  
Ages 7 years and older



**Pentacel® (sanofi pasteur)**  
Ages 6 weeks up to 5 years



**Kinrix® (GlaxoSmithKline)**  
Ages 4 years through 6 years



Age Indications for use of products in the VFC program may differ from age indications on this guide or in the package inserts. Not all formulations are available from the VFC Program.

**Questions: (502) 564-4478**